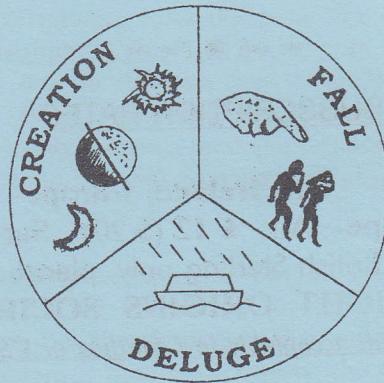


And God saw that it was good...

# DAYLIGHT



# **DAYLIGHT ORIGINS SOCIETY**

## Patrons

St. Thomas Aquinas [March] St. Bonaventure [July]  
St. Michael [September] The Immaculate Conception [December]

## Honorary Member

Professor Maciej Giertych, B.A., M.A. (Oxon), Ph.D., D.Sc.

**AIMS** to inform Catholics and others of the scientific evidence supporting Special Creation as opposed to Evolution, and that the true discoveries of Science are in conformity with Catholic doctrines.

**FOUNDED** in 1977 as the "Counter Evolution Group" by John G. Campbell (d.1983), it was relaunched in 1987 as "CESHE: UK", and in 1991 as "Daylight".

**SUPPORTERS** include clergy, religious, scientists, doctors, teachers, academics, other professionals and layfolk.

**FUNDED** by subscriptions, donations and sales of publications.

**PUBLISHES** the quarterly magazine "DAYLIGHT" for over 200 subscribers in 17 countries; also produces and distributes pamphlets.

**PROVIDES** a mail order service for literature and audio-visual materials, advice on resources and information.

**ORGANISES** private and public meetings, talks and video showings.

**INFORMS** through letters and articles in the Press and other publications.

**PROMOTES** links with Catholic Origins Societies in other countries.



## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

*Per annum [4 issues]*    UK, Ireland, Europe- £ 8

Outside Europe- Air: £ 12 (\$ 20) Surface: £ 8 (\$ 15)

Cheques etc. in British Sterling only, please, payable to :

**DAYLIGHT ORIGINS SOCIETY**

Cash payment acceptable in £ Sterling or US \$ only.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary and Editor -

Anthony Nevard B.Sc.,

19 Francis Avenue, St.Albans, Herts AL3 6BL, ENGLAND.

**☎ 01727 868427** [Evenings and weekends only, please.]

00000000

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the latest issue of *Daylight* - in fact, the latest there has been so far! By no stretch of the imagination can January in England be considered a Summer month, though it has been rather mild lately. I apologise for this unprecedented delay, occasioned by circumstances including an extremely busy school term for me, the transition of three of my children to new schools in September, including two of my teenage sons leaving weekly boarding school, and two bouts of 'flu during my holidays. I hope to adjust the demands on my time to return to producing quarterly issues from the Spring.

Owing to this intermission, since this issue 24 completes our sixth year, I intend to alter the Subscription Year to coincide with the Calendar Year - in other words, payments due in January will cover the next four issues, nominally published in March, July, September and December. My thanks to those who have kindly already renewed their subscriptions.

If you need a written acknowledgement of subs, please enclose a s.a.e.

## **Submission of articles.**

Unsolicited manuscripts relating to Origins issues and not conflicting with Catholic doctrines will be considered for publication. A favourable response is more likely if it is already prepared as suitably formatted A5 copy. Please enclose s.a.e. if return is required. Typists who could help in preparing material for printing would also be welcome. Thanks very much!

A. N.

# Is Evolution a Fact?

compiled by Bernard A. Reeves

What are the hard scientific facts in support of the evolutionary hypothesis? Let non-Christian scientists tell us:-

**Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, FRS.**, world-famous astro-physicist, and **Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe**, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, University of Wales:

"There is not a shred of objective evidence to support the hypothesis that life began in an organic soup here on Earth." *The Intelligent Universe*, Michael Joseph, 1983.

"We ... have been disturbed to discover how little attention is paid to fact [in the scientific world] and how much to myths and prejudice. It is not hard to find writings in which the myth is stated that the Darwinian theory of evolution is well proven by the fossil record ... The fossil record is highly imperfect from the Darwinian point of view ... because the slow evolutionary connections required by the theory did not happen ... palaeontologists have recognised this truth for a century or more ... It is ironic that the scientific facts throw Darwin out, but leave William Paley, a figure of fun to the scientific world for more than a century, still in the tournament with a chance of being the ultimate winner." *Evolution from Space*, Scientific Book Club, 1982.

**Professor Stephen Jay Gould**, leading American evolutionist and Professor of Paleontology, Biology and Geology, Harvard University, USA.

"The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our text books have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils." *Natural History*, vol. 86, 1977.

**Professor Steve Jones**, Professor of Genetics, University of London, an arch evolutionist and atheist:

"The evidence for human evolution is, in fact, still extraordinarily weak ... There are no more fossils than would cover a decent-sized table and we know almost nothing about what propelled a hairy and rather stupid ape into a bald and mildly intellectual human being."

*Daily Telegraph*, 13th Sept, 1995.

"It is hard to know which we understand less, human evolution or animal evolution - we scarcely understand either of them."

*BBC Radio 4* discussion on his 1992 Reith Lectures.

(continued;)

[Mr. Bernard Reeves, as well as Mr. Eric Curnow and Mr. Robert Heyes, is a regular contributor of newspaper cuttings to CSM.]

**Sir Peter Medawar**, eminent Biologist; "There are philosophical and methodological objections to evolutionary theory." quoted in *The Times* leader of 25th Aug, 1992, (which commented; "There are many biologists who admit that Darwinism's theory has grave limitations as an explanation of the diversity and discreteness of living species. And evolution is a hypothesis which cannot be demonstrated by a repeatable experiment.")

**Dr. Michael Denton**, Research Molecular Biologist:

"Neither of the two fundamental axioms of Darwin's macroevolutionary theory [ie. the continuum of life forms linking all species to the primeval cell, and life resulting from a blind random process] have been validated by one single empirical discovery or scientific advance since 1859. Despite more than a century of effort, the major objections raised by Darwin's critics ... have not been met. The mind must still fill up the 'large blanks' that Darwin acknowledged in his letter to Asa Gray."

**Evolution: a theory in crisis**, Adler & Adler, 1986.

See also best-selling books:

*The Facts of Life - shattering the myth of Darwinism*, Corgi Books, 1993, by **Richard Milton**, which the *Sunday Times* described as "An authoritative compilation of scientific findings".

*Darwin's Black Box - the biochemical challenge to evolution*, The Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 1996, by **Professor Michael Behe**, which demonstrates that irreducibly complex biochemical systems could not have arisen step-by-step, so must be the result of intelligent design.

## Physicists catch up with French Sedimentologist!

The science journal *Nature*, 27 Mar, pp.323 & 379, reported that physicists at Boston, Massachusetts had mixed together small round white glass beads with larger red cube shaped sugar crystals and poured them down one side of a thin, glass open-topped tank.

Instead of the mixture remaining a mixture, the coloured particles separated out, forming a repeating pattern of diagonal stripes. There were alternating layers of small white grains and large, red grains. Within the layers, the smaller grains tended to be nearer the top. Dr Eugene Stanley said: "If you take a mixture of two different sizes and simply pour them into a heap, then somehow, magically, the sand particles stratify into layers." Dr Stanley joked that physicists have broken the second law of thermodynamics. Of course, they haven't. The layers result from the angles of repose and the resulting instability of the slope.

They say that this should help the oil industry to understand rock structure; for example the layering that can be found in sandstone.

CSM members will recall that creationist Guy Berthault did such experiments almost a decade ago, and they were published in *Compt. Rendu Acad. Sci.* in Paris. His pamphlet 281, *Laying down of Marine Sediments*, and his two videos, (see Particulars) demonstrated that layers are laid down rapidly, and that several layers can be formed at the same time.

# The Death of Evolution?

by Peter Grace

Several writers on the Origins issue in recent years have taken as their theme "the death of Darwinism", and have presented two scenarios - Darwinian Evolution, and Evolution 'properly understood', i.e. Theistic Evolution. Yet there is a third solution to the problem: No Evolution - and the scientific evidence in its favour is becoming formidable!

If there has been no evolution, then there is no need for the vast aeons of time that are a necessary pre-condition for the very possibility of its having happened. But to suggest that the world is only 6,000 to 10,000 years old constitutes a culture-shock, since the geological ages, with their eras and periods, are as deeply entrenched in our consciousness as the alphabet and the decimal system. We find them in the school text-books and the standard geological texts, in encyclopaedias and museum displays, in scientific items of the popular press and in the scientific journals. So how can they possibly be questioned, since they are universally accepted as scientific fact? The short answer is that they are not so accepted. The authors of "The Evolution Hoax Exposed"<sup>1</sup>, "The Rise of the Evolution Fraud"<sup>2</sup>, "The Great Brain Robbery"<sup>3</sup>, "The Collapse of Evolution"<sup>4</sup>, "Evolution: a Theory in Crisis"<sup>5</sup>, and "The Young Earth"<sup>6</sup> not only do not accept it, but strongly challenge it as science. The fact is, of course, that the whole subject of origins is not science as such, but speculation in support of which scientific facts are adduced. Origins are a matter of history or pre-history; hence no scientific statement, *qua* science, can be made, since there is no possibility of verification by repetition. Likewise, no statements to the contrary can be made with scientific certainty; hence the question mark at the end of the title of this article. The most that can be said is that it may, or may not, have happened. However, that does not prevent the weighing of evidence for and against; and as scientific research reveals more and more of the facts of life, the scales of probability descend further and further against evolution.

Not that the hypothesis has always been accepted as factual. Here is a French Academician, quoted in *Nature* of August 1st, 1872: "What has closed the doors of the Academy [L'Académie des Sciences, presumably, which had refused to admit Charles Darwin] to Mr Darwin is that the science of those of

his books which have made his chief title to fame - *The Origin of Species*, and still more so *The Descent of Man* - is not science, but a mass of assertions and absolutely gratuitous hypotheses, often evidently fallacious. This kind of publication and these theories are a bad example, which a body which respects itself cannot encourage.<sup>7</sup> Then in 1934, the president of the newly-formed Evolution Protest Movement, Sir Ambrose Fleming, F.R.S., sought permission from the B.B.C. to broadcast the arguments against evolution. This was refused on the grounds that the policy of the Corporation was "to allow of reference to evolution in such terms as have the support of the large majority of distinguished scientists in this country."<sup>8</sup> But then the B.B.C. "defended a Communist broadcast on the ground that 'there was no greater danger than that a point of view should be suppressed.'"<sup>9</sup> The irony of it all was that it was Sir Ambrose who had invented the thermionic valve which made broadcasting possible! So what had happened to scientific impartiality between 1872 and 1934? An over-riding interest had clearly intervened, and that of a religious nature, since both evolution and Communism were perceived as presenting ultimate truths about the nature of things. The trick was to present hypothesis as fact, thereby imparting to evolution the sort of infallibility with which the pronouncements of scientists and experts are credited in our society.

It is no coincidence that three words connoting deception appear in the book-titles quoted above: "hoax", "fraud", "brain-robery". The *loci classicī* are: Nebraska Man, reconstructed, with splendid artist's impressions, from a tooth which was later shown to be that of an extinct pig<sup>10</sup>; the Piltdown skull, consisting of an orang-utan's jaw fitted to a human skull and skilfully doctored to make it look like a form mid-way between ape and man; and the hypothesis of recapitulation, by which the growing foetus repeated the stages of the supposed evolutionary development of its ancestors. Its originator, Professor Ernst Haeckel (1834 - 1919) saw nothing amiss in making drawings which he deliberately falsified. This deception provides a good example of how evolutionary errors persist as part of the mythology.<sup>11</sup> In the words of Malcolm Bowden: "... this theory, or a very similar one, is still sometimes taught by schoolteachers who have failed to realise that it is out of date. This is due to the lack of publicity which is given to evidence that contradicts evolution (or, in this case, false evidence that was at one time used to support it. As a result, schools continue to teach outmoded ideas and it can take many years before the textbooks catch up with the latest view."<sup>12</sup>

The case against evolution is two-fold: there is a negative approach, which would show that the evolution process contravenes the observed physical and biological trends; and a positive approach, in which observed processes are extrapolated into the past, using unverifiable assumptions similar to those on

which the evolutionary case rests, but yielding widely differing results. The argument with the negative approach is that evolution cannot work contrariwise to the physical laws; and with the positive approach, the argument is that the resultant of various processes of change is radically at variance with what the resultant would be if the evolutionary time-scale applied.

### The two laws of thermodynamics

The first law: the total amount of energy in a closed system (i.e. closed to entry from outside and to loss from inside) is constant. The form of energy may change, but the amount remains the same.

The second law: in a closed system, there is a steady increase in entropy, that is to say, there is a steady decrease in the amount of energy available for work, and hence there is a steady decline into disorder, i.e. the atoms arrive at a steady state, when they are no longer influenced by heat to move in one direction rather than another.

Given that the universe is a closed system, the laws mean that the natural processes are all running down without any possibility of recovery, since there is always an increase in entropy, or disorder. Now, the evolution hypothesis postulates a steady increase in activity over millions of years. Evolutionists believe that the hypothesis is a fact, and they accept the laws of thermodynamics as fact. So is evolution compatible with those laws? The truth can be arrived at only by measurement and calculation, as with all scientific propositions. The mathematics is to be found in Dr Duane T. Gish's book, "*Creation Scientists Answer Their Critics*" (Institute for Creation Research, 1993): a general physical formula is given on p.159, and formulae for the application to life systems are discussed on pp. 426-439. It must suffice here to quote one authority, the British astronomer Arthur Eddington: "... if your theory is found to be against the second law of thermodynamics, I can give you no hope; there is nothing for it but to collapse in deepest humiliation."<sup>13</sup>

### Application of the thermodynamic laws to biology.

Professor Maciej Giertych is a forester working for the Institute of Dendrology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and studies populations of trees with a view to making them more productive; he also lectures in population genetics. His children were being taught in school that population genetics provided proof of the evolution hypothesis (which, no doubt, was presented as a fact). As soon as he found that out, he entered the public debate, since he could find no support for evolution in his subject. Quite the contrary. To use his own words: "... adapted populations are genetically

poorer (fewer alleles - an allele being one of a pair of genes that determine the same characteristic but produce a different effect) than the unselected natural populations from which they arose. Microevolution [variation within a species], formation of races, is a fact. Populations adapt to specific environments, with the more successful alleles increasing in numbers and others declining in frequencies, or disappearing altogether. Change can also occur due to accidental loss of alleles (genetic drift) in small, isolated populations. Both amount to **decline** in genetic information. Macroevolution [variation producing new species] requires its **increase.**"<sup>14</sup>

Now we come to the positive approach. It must be emphasised that here the opponents of evolution play the same game of making assumptions that cannot be verified experimentally, and therefore the conclusions are not science but speculation. On this point, the Cardinals who condemned Galileo are completely vindicated. They might not have known much science, but they knew erroneous thinking when they saw it, and immediately jumped on the fallacy in Galileo's deductions. It was the logic they condemned, not the science, and they are vindicated by modern science, which has yet to find a way of determining whether the solar system is geocentric or heliocentric. Here is Sir Fred Hoyle: "Today we cannot say that the Copernican theory (heliocentric) is 'right' and the Ptolemaic theory (geocentric) 'wrong' in any meaningful sense."<sup>15</sup>

Evolutionist and creationist speculations necessarily assume certain factors to be constant, e.g. the rate of decay of a radio-isotope, the amount of a substance already present at the onset of any given chemical or organic process, the amount of pollution that has taken place in the course of the process. And because these variables have happened in the past and therefore are unobserved, the calculation remains speculative.

What we are dealing with, therefore, is TIME. The evolutionists claim billions of years have passed since the Big Bang or God set the things going that have produced the world about us and the universe. Their opponents claim that the world would have to be a different place if the evolutionary ages really had elapsed. Here are some of the considerations.

### **Helium in the atmosphere.**

Helium is produced in the earth by the decay of radio-active isotopes. The helium atom being of very light weight, it rises up through the pores in the rock and escapes into the atmosphere. Some of the atoms rise up through the atmosphere, attain exit velocity and pass out into space. The measured rate of helium escape into the atmosphere stands at 13 million helium atoms per sq. inch per second.<sup>16</sup> But the theoretical rate of helium escape into outer space

is only 0.3 million atoms per sq. in. per sec., and it is therefore accumulating very rapidly. "Dividing the known amount of helium in the atmosphere by the rate of accumulation shows that all of the helium in the atmosphere today would have accumulated in no more than two million years."<sup>17</sup> Not, of course, that the earth must therefore be 2 million years old. We do not know what variables have been in play, nor do we know the initial amount of helium in the atmosphere at, e.g., the creation.

### **Decays and reversal of the earth's magnetic field.**

Since 1829, the earth's magnetic field has diminished by 7%. The plot of the readings taken over the intervening period indicate an exponential rate of decay, that is to say, the quantity lessens by a fixed percentage each year, giving a half-life of 1,400 years. Thus, 1,400 years from today the magnetic field will have half today's strength, and in 10,000 years time or so it will have disappeared, assuming that is that the rate remains unchanged. If, on the other hand, making the same assumption, one extrapolates backwards in time, the reverse is the case, and the strength doubles every 1,400 years, so that 20,000 years ago the earth's interior would have melted with the heat of the electrical currents required to induce that strength of the magnetic field.<sup>18</sup> But no, say the evolutionists, there have been reversal of the magnetic poles accompanied by a reversion of the strength to zero. The determination of the behaviour of magnetism, both in limited areas of rock and globally, is a complex subject, and includes the incidence of rapid reversals of the field with attendant decay, for which we have no space here; but some indication of evolutionist methodology is contained in the following passage: "... the gathering of the data is done by those who 'know what they are looking for', and those measurements which don't seem to fit preconceived notions are frequently discarded... a former graduate student of mine acquired a laboratory job at the University, measuring the remnant magnetism in individual specimens. He had never thought to question the theory, but he was puzzled to find how often discrepant readings were discarded by the scientist in charge. If the readings matched the theory's predictions, they were kept. Abnormal readings were thrown out. Once he and I had discussed the scientific problems with the theory, he understood better."<sup>19</sup>

### **Salt in the oceans.**

The seas are getting saltier and saltier as rivers pour their loads into the oceans. The exercise here is to determine the annual increase in salinity and, choosing a reasonable model to allow for the various changes in climate and vegetation as required by the uniformitarian (old earth) scenario, to set the

sodium (salt: NaCl) output against input and so calculate how long it has taken to reach the present level from zero. Austin and Humphreys have taken the extreme *minimum* input rates and the extreme *maximum* output rates to give the absolute maximum age of the saline seas, and have come up with 62 million years.<sup>20</sup> Now that, according to the standard dating of the geological column, is about the beginning of the Palaeocene period; that is, the beginning of the Tertiary era; but life is supposed to have evolved some 3-4 billion years ago in a salty sea. Again, the anti-evolutionists are not saying that the oceans actually are that old: they are merely demonstrating the arbitrary nature of the evolutionist assumptions.<sup>21</sup>

### **Erosion of the continents and resultant sedimentation.**

Here are more straight calculations based on what is actually in place or happening today. The rivers of the world are eroding the surface at the average annual rate of 27.5 billion tons. The total weight of the continents above sea level is calculated at 383 million billion tons, giving a time span of 14 million years to reduce the continents to sea-level. But the uniformitarians reckon the continents are about 3.5 billion years old, time for them to be eroded many times over. The calculations for the complementary process of sedimentation yield similar results. The 27.5 billion tons of annually deposited sediments are added to the existing total of 410 million billion tons on the ocean bottom, giving an age of 15 million years to the land-mass. If the continents were as old as the evolutionists claim, the oceans would be full of sediments.<sup>22</sup> Again, this is a demonstration of the extent of the divergence in the calculations based respectively on the observed rates of erosion/deposition, and on the estimated rate of sedimentary rock-formation throughout the geological ages, both sets of calculations assuming a uniformitarian process. And again the calculations do not establish the actual age of the continents. Further evidence is provided by Scott M. Huse, quoting R. L. Wysong<sup>23</sup> on the formation of the Mississippi Delta, where the annual deposition of 300 million cu. yards of sediment divided into the total weight of the delta gives an age of 4,000 years (cf. the rates of deposition to form the Shatt el Arab flood plain in southern Iraq/Iran, and Orford Ness in Suffolk [England].

### **Short period comets.**

Since the short-period comets, such as Halley's and Kohoutek, are part of the solar system, it is reasonable to infer that they and the system are of the same maximum age; furthermore they seem to be disintegrating continuously<sup>24</sup>. Professor S. K. Vsekhsviatsky, Director of the Kiev Observatory and leading authority on comets, has in the words of Richard Milton, "come to the

conclusion that they are losing their luminosity and the matter which constitutes them at such a rapid rate that a comet will disintegrate completely within 50 to 69 revolutions of the solar system." <sup>25</sup> Milton adds, "Halley's comet could thus be less than 6,000 years old." Whitcomb and Morris quote Fred Whittle, another leading authority on the theory of cometary phenomena: "It is an immediate inference (from the relatively rapid break-up of comets) that these comets cannot have been moving around the Sun as they are at present for much longer than a million years, since otherwise they would already have been broken up." <sup>26</sup> The authors reject Oort's hypothesis of a cometary-cloud on the edges of the solar gravitational field, a sort of cold-store of potential comets, as being entirely unsupported by observation, and hence pure speculation.

### **Carbon-14 dating and dendrochronology.**

Nitrogen-14, under cosmic ray bombardment in the outer atmosphere, is changed to Carbon-14, a radio-active isotope of stable carbon (C-12), forming a small percentage of total carbon. C-14 taken into organisms in the process of living decays into N-14, but is replaced by fresh C-14 atoms, and so a low level is maintained throughout the life of the organism, plant or animal. On the death of the organism, intake ceases, and the unstable C-14 atoms decay back to N-14, changing the ratio of C-14 to C-12. Assuming a steady rate of decay, C-14 has a half-life of 5,730 years; that is to say, after that period of time, the amount will have diminished by one half, and plots on an exponential curve [i.e. this pattern is repeated over successive equal time periods - Ed]. If then the ratio of C-14 to C-12 is measured, it is an indicator of the age of the specimen. To be accurate, the specimen must be free of the effects of any disturbance which can alter the quantities of the substances being measured. Therefore care was taken to use flawless specimens, as far as possible.

There was, however, another factor. It was assumed that the amount of C-14 at the earth's surface was constant, because the time taken for the level of activity to reach equilibrium is 30,000 years, and it was assumed that that point had been reached ages before in the evolutionary past. But the rate of C-14 generation is about 50% higher in the upper atmosphere, <sup>27</sup> and it was eventually acknowledged that the amount of C-14 on earth was increasing. The effect of the error on the exponential curve was to increase the estimated age. <sup>28</sup>

Ways of calibrating the measured ratio of C-14 to C-12 were sought, and it was thought that the information gleaned from tree-rings would yield reliable comparisons. The oldest trees are the bristlecone pines of N. America,

4,500 years being the extreme limit. It seems that expectations were confounded: "Comparison of charts of measured rings (of bristlecone pines) show no similarity whatever."<sup>29</sup> The trouble is that there are too many variables, as John Morris points out: "distance from water-source, prevailing sunlight direction, nutrients in the soil, etc."<sup>30</sup>

Another complicating factor is the rapid decline in earth magnetism, because the earth's magnetic field is a shield against solar radiation, and its presence slows the rate of N-14/C-14 activity. However, one reliable basis for calibration is historical dating. Does this solve all the problems? Apparently not. John Morris relates the following conversation, "with a famous archaeologist from the University of Pennsylvania ... He had discovered an ancient tomb with wooden timbers. I asked if he had sent timber samples off for dating through the carbon-14 method. His reply shocked me and all those standing around. He had, of course, sent samples off for dating, but claimed he would *never* believe anything that came back from a carbon-14 lab. Nor was he aware of any archaeologist in the world who would accept such dates. If the date agreed with what he knew it should be *historically*, then the data would be published; if not, it [sic] would be ignored. He was obliged to carbon-date artifacts to keep his grant money coming in, and so he always did so, but he did *not* trust the method or its results."<sup>31</sup> Further criticism quoted by John Morris: "No matter how 'useful' it is, though, the radiocarbon method is still not capable of yielding accurate and reliable results. There are gross discrepancies, the chronology is uneven and relative, and the accepted dates are actually selected dates (my emphasis)."<sup>32</sup> Selection of dates means rigging of results. We shall come back to this serious charge. Scott M. Huse quotes two results that go some way to explain the archaeologists's attitude. "... living snails have been dated as 2,300 years old by the carbon-14 method. Wood taken from growing trees has been dated by the carbon-14 method to be 10,000 years old."<sup>33</sup>

### Radio-isotope dating of rocks.

If radiocarbon is taking such a pounding over the limited time span it claims to measure, what of the radio-isotope dating of rocks purporting to measure the vast aeons of the evolutionary time -scale? The method is virtually limited to igneous rocks (e.g. granite, basalt), sedimentary rocks (e.g. sandstone, limestone) being formed by the erosion and transportation of igneous rocks, and by their subsequent transformation through chemical, mechanical or organic processes. The radio-active constituents of the igneous rocks are unstable and subject to decay from a parent element into a daughter element, through intermediate stages. Thus uranium-238 changes into lead-206

via various isotopes, given in order of decay: thorium, protactinium, uranium, thorium, radium, radon, polonium, lead, bismuth, polonium, lead, bismuth, polonium, and so arriving at the stable atom lead-206.<sup>34</sup> The process can be measured according to the half-life of a given number of uranium atoms. The half-life of uranium 238 is 4,510 million years, which means that, e.g. 12 grams of uranium-238 will become, in 4,510,000,000 years time, 6 grams of U-238 and the equivalent of 6 gms of lead-206, and 9,020,000,000 years later there will be 3 gms of U-238 and the equivalent of 9 gms of Pb-206. Other decay sequences are potassium-argon, rubidium-strontium, etc. which are calibrated against U-238/Pb-206.

And how accurate are these results? Here are some examples.

§ Lava flows in Hawaii : the Kaupelehu Flow, Hualalai Volcano, known to have erupted in 1800 to 1801. 12 dates, ranging from 140,000,000 to 2,960,000,000 years

§ Mt. Kilauea, Hawaii: lavas erupted into the deep ocean, probably less than 200 years before. Testing at 3 depths -- 4,680 metres, "age" 21+/-8 million years; 3,420 m., "age" 12+/-2 million years; 1,400 m., "age" 0 years, which was the correct answer, the rock being too young to measure.<sup>35</sup>

§ Nigeria: test on rock by 3 different methods of radiometry. Method 1 -- "age" 95,000,000 years; method 2 -- 750,000,000 years; method 3 -- less than 30,000,000 years. N.B. The date of 95 million years was declared to be "geologically unrealistic, for absence of sediment cover, the freshness of the rock and *the ages of associated rocks all point to a late Tertiary origin.*" Comment: "Here is an indication of how the 'accepted' scale of evolutionary dating overrules all discrepant radiometric results."<sup>36</sup>

§ Near Lake Rudolf, north Kenya: Richard Leakey's "1470 Man". Initial set of tests -- ages ranging from 220,000,000 years (hastily rejected, since man is supposed to have evolved only over the last 2 - 4 million years) to 2,250,000 years. A dating of 2,610,000 from a site 6 miles away was considered "... the best and most acceptable estimate", and it is this date that has received all the publicity.<sup>37</sup>

§ Moon-rock, one of many specimens brought back: dated by the uranium-thorium-lead method -- "age" 5,400,000,000 to 28,100,000,000 years (half as old again as the universe itself, according to evolutionist reckoning!)<sup>38</sup>

### Meteorites and the Age of the Earth.

The accepted age of the earth is 4,600,000,000 years, and is based on the dating of meteorites which, it is assumed, are coeval with the earth. What are the grounds for the date? According to John D. Morris, they are very shaky. He gives a list of datings, using different methods, of a much-tested

meteorite called "Allende" (S.Amer. Spanish). They range from 4,480,000,000 to 10,400,000,000, and he quotes the judgement of an evolutionist: "(It therefore follows that) the whole of the classic interpretation of the meteorite lead-isotope data is in doubt, and that the radiometric estimates of the age of the earth are placed in jeopardy."<sup>39</sup>

One of the difficulties besetting the process of radio-isotope dating is the extremely small quantities of the radio-active substances to be measured. Malcolm Bowden gives an example: "Potassium forms only a small portion of rock material. Of the normal potassium, only 0.0118% is the radio-active potassium-40. If argon is present to only 0.05% of the potassium-40, i.e. 0.0006% or 6 parts per million of the normal potassium, the resulting date is 1 million years. It can be seen how easily erroneous dates can arise from minute amounts of daughter elements being present, or missed, during the technical processing of the samples."<sup>40</sup>

"Daughter elements being present": this is one of the unknowns that invalidate the whole process. The measurement of the half-life may well indicate the age of a rock, but ONLY IF EVERYTHING ELSE IS EQUAL; that is to say, if (1) variation in the rate of decay is zero during the whole period; (2) the initial amount of daughter element is zero; (3) there has been zero contamination of the rock, i.e. nothing has entered, or escaped from, the radiogenic system. These are the assumptions that the tester has to make, and there is no way in which verification can be made experimentally. There are two conclusions: (1) the process of radiometric dating is not scientific, although scientific expertise may be used by scientists; (2) there is no way of measuring the age of the earth. Calculations based on present-day measurements may be used to obtain some indication of the age of organic or inorganic substances: that is all that can be achieved. But what about those precise figures given for the eras and periods of the geological column, e.g. 600 million years for the beginning of the Palaeozoic era and 225 My for the beginning of the Triassic period, etc.? Surely the figures betoken scientific precision? We have seen already that little attempt is made to date sedimentary rock; but the geological column consists of sedimentary rocks. So whence the dates? Here is Richard Milton: "When the British Museum says, for instance, that the Devonian period began around 400 million years ago and ended some 350 million years ago, these dates are not based on determinations made directly by radio-active decay, because rocks of Devonian age contain only sediments composed of minerals of uniform earlier age. The age of 400 million years is an estimate based on factors such as how long it would take for the succeeding sediments to be laid down, assuming ocean-bottom conditions comparable with those of today; and on the evolutionists' estimate of how long it would take for life to

evolve from the state represented by Devonian fossils to its present day state."  
41 (\*)

It should be noted that the anti-evolutionist facts and assumptions are based on scientific logic, which cannot be said of the following dating process. Malcolm Bowden again (who had suspected that preliminary tests were carried out on rock samples to secure the achievement only of 'acceptable' dates in the full test): "A young geophysicist ... approached me after a lecture I had given against evolution in January 1991. He had worked in a laboratory that carried out radiometric dating, and mentioned that it was *standard practice* to carry out no less than 12 'pilot tests' on rock samples. The geologist also had to give the 'expected range' of dates, and if the results were outside these 'acceptable' values, the whole sample was rejected and another core from the same rock was used for a second series of pilot tests. By these means, we can see how it is that the conforming of all published results to acceptable values is assured. He also noted that a plot of the results was often an almost random distribution of dots. He challenged a senior scientist about this, and said that really you could draw a straight line almost anywhere on the page and call it a 'resulting date', to which he agreed!"<sup>42</sup> Clearly, that particular scientist was not blindly making an act of quasi-religious faith in the "priority of the (evolutionary) paradigm"<sup>43</sup>, which is a feature of adherence to the evolution hypothesis: he was probably merely protecting his job (\*\*). But nevertheless he was pursuing a course of action which offended against logic. The O.E.D. gives as definition no.4 of the word 'superstition': "irrational or unfounded belief in general (i.e. besides that of a religious nature); an unreasonable or groundless notion." The evolutionists' belief in selective dating, based on unverifiable assumptions, falls within that definition: hence that belief can justly be called 'superstition', which joins the other epithets already noted, 'hoax', 'fraud', 'robbery'. I think that enough has been said to justify the use of all those pejorative terms.

\* Evolutionist thinking has for years moved on to require catastrophies (Noah's Flood, for instance?) to explain the anomalies of the uniformitarian hypothesis, which presumably would leave the geological column in need of a thorough reshuffle.

\*\* See also the EPILOGUE at the end.

## NOTES

1. A. N. Field: Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., 1941, 1971.
2. Malcolm Bowden: Sovereign Publications, 1982.
3. David C. C. Watson: U.P. Cambridge, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1982, 1989.
4. Scott M. Huse: Baker Book House, 1986; 13th printing, 1990.
5. Michael Denton: Adler & Adler, Inc., 1985.
6. John D. Morris, Ph.D.: Master Books, 1994.
7. Article in *Le Monde*; see A. N. Field, op. cit., p.53.
8. A. N. Field, op. cit., p. 59.
9. ibid., pp. 59-60.
10. David C. C. Watson, op. cit., pp.xii and xiii.
11. Cf. Michael Denton, op. cit., p.358: "Ultimately the Darwinian theory of evolution is no more nor less than the great cosmogenic myth of the twentieth century."
12. M. Bowden, op. cit., p. 62. Also cf. the familiar illustration showing the supposed phylogenetic sequence *Eohippus* (Dawn Horse) to *Equus*, a fallacy recognised for many years.
13. Quoted by Scott M. Huse, op. cit., p. 61.
14. Professor Maciej Giertych, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc.: article in the Autumn 1995 issue of the R.C. creationist periodical "*Daylight*". Editor: Mr Anthony L. G. Nevard, B.Sc.
15. Dr. Gerald E. Aardsma, Ph.D., "Geocentricity and Creation" : article in "Impact" for July, 1994, published by the Institute for Creation Research.
16. John D. Morris, op. cit., p. 83, quoting Dr Larry Vardiman's monograph, *The Age of the Earth's Atmosphere*, Institute for Creation Research.
17. ibid., p. 83.
18. ibid., p. 75, based on Dr Thomas Barnes: *Origin and Destiny of the Earth's Magnetic Field*, I.C.R. Technical Monograph # 4, (2nd Edition, 1983).
19. ibid., p. 77.
20. ibid., p. 85: Austin, Steven A., and Humphreys, Russell D.: "The Sea's Missing Salt: a Dilemma for Evolutionists," *Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Creationism*, Vol. 2, 1991, pp.1-33.
21. ibid., pp. 85-87, where the subject is dealt with in some technical detail.
22. ibid., pp. 88-90.
23. Scott M. Huse, op. cit., p. 161: Wysong, R. L. : *The Creation-Evolution Controversy*, Inquiry Press, Midland, Michigan, 1981, pp.300-301.
24. John C. Whitcomb & Henry M. Morris: *The Genesis Flood*, Baker Book House, 1961, 32 reprintings: pp. 382-3.
25. Richard Milton: *The Facts of Life*, Fourth Estate Ltd., 1992, p. 52.

26. Whitcomb & Morris, op. cit., p. 383: Fred L. Whipple: "Comets", in *The New Astronomer*, Simon & Schuster, 1955.
27. Malcolm Bowden, op. cit., p. 125.
28. ibid.: see Fig. 27, which makes the situation graphically clear.
29. John D. Morris, op. cit., p. 66, quoting Harold S. Gladwin: "Dendrochronology, Radiocarbon and Bristlecones," *Anthropological Journal of Canada*, Vol. 14, No. 4, 1976, p. 5.
30. ibid., p. 66.
31. ibid., p. 65.
32. ibid., p. 67, quoting Robert E. Lee: "Radiocarbon Ages in Error", *Anthropological Journal of Canada*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 1981, pp. 9, 29 (Assistant Editor).
33. Scott H. Huse, op. cit., p. 20, quoting Huber, B.: "Recording Gaseous Exchange Under Field Conditions", *The Physiology of Forest Trees*, Ronald Publishers, N. York, 1958.
34. John D. Morris, op. cit., p. 51.
35. ibid., p. 55, referring to Nobel, C. S. and Naughton, John J., "Radiogenic Helium and Argon in Ultramafic Inclusions from Hawaii", *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Vol. 73, No. 14, July 1968, pp. 4601 - 4607.
36. M. Bowden, op. cit., p. 116.
37. ibid., p. 117.
38. David Rosevear: *Creation Science*, New Wine Press, 1991, p. 92.
39. John D. Morris, op. cit., p. 61, quoting Gale, N. et al. "Uranium-Lead Chronology of Chondrite Meteorites", *Nature (Physical Sciences)*, Vol. 240, Nov. 20, 1972, p. 57.
40. M. Bowden, op. cit., p. 116.
41. R. Milton, op. cit., p. 49.
42. M. Bowden, op. cit., p. 122.
43. ibid.: see Michael Denton, op. cit., Chap. 15: "The Priority of the Paradigm", p. 344 and p. 348, where he refers to Thomas Kuhn as the originator of the term: Kuhn, T.S., *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 2nd Edition, University of Chicago Press , 1970.

## EPILOGUE

A. N. Field can provide the epilogue to these notes. In "The Evolution Hoax", he gives an example of "how scientists are kicked into line on the subject of evolution." He says that Mr. Arnold Lunn, in his *Flight from Reason* (1930), wrote: "The other day I met a Fellow of the Royal Society. 'I am glad you are taking up this issue,' he said, 'because, of course, we professional scientists can

do nothing. Our hands are tied. Take my own case, for instance. Professor X regards Darwin as a Messiah. He has good jobs in his gift, and no jobs are going excepting to those who worship at the Darwin shrine.' " Further: "Mr. Lunn also quotes the late Professor Thomas Dwight, an eminent anatomist, as saying: 'The tyranny of the *Zeitgeist* in the matter of evolution is overwhelming to a degree of which outsiders have no idea. Not only does it influence (as I admit it does in my own case) our manners of thinking, but there is an oppression as in the days of the Terror. How very few of the leaders of science dare tell the truth concerning their own state of mind!" (pp. 57 - 58).

February, 1996

Peter Grace, Cambridge.

## HOLY SHROUD ON SHOW

The last time the Shroud of Turin was on public display was in 1978, during the brief pontificate of Pope John-Paul I, when three and a half million pilgrims filed past the Holy Relic unfolded full length and displayed above the high altar of St. John the Baptist's Cathedral , in Turin.

This will be the fifth centenary of the consecration of the Cathedral, and the first centenary of the exposition in 1898, during which, on 28th May, the first photograph of the Holy Shroud was taken, from which the incomparable Face of Christ became revealed by photographic inversion.

The exposition will run from April 18 to June 14. Tickets can be reserved by telephoning 0800 967951. Both calls and tickets are free, and the lines are open 9am - 1pm and 2 - 6pm Italian time (GMT plus one hour).

Many of you will know the authoritative reports of Brother Bruno Bonnet-Eymard, published by CRC, amply demonstrating the scientific, historical and scriptural evidences of the authenticity of the Shroud, with a detailed and documented critique of the fraudulent carbon-dating experiment, announced October 14, 1988. Previously published in three booklets, the most recent Special Number 295 (in English) condenses and updates the previous material, and costs 30 F from:

CRC, Maison Saint-Joseph, 10 260 SAINT-PARRES LÈS VAUDES, France.

I intend to order some copies, which I expect to price at £3 each.

# NOAH'S ARK RESEARCHER SURVIVES HUMANIST ATTACK

*Anthony Nevard*

Evolutionists scornful of Creation Science have frequently focussed attacks at the story of Noah and the Great Flood, disputing both the feasibility of the Ark and any hard evidence for its existence. When researcher Dr Allen Roberts embarked on a lecture tour of Australia in 1992, and marketed a book and video claiming that the Ark had been found, geologist Ian Plimer launched a public attack on him, culminating in taking Roberts to court in Sydney in April 1997. He claimed that Roberts had broken commercial law in making false or unprovable claims in pursuit of funds to finance research of the remains of the Ark, as science has shown there never was a world-wide Flood, and the Bible story is a myth.<sup>1</sup>

Professor Plimer, of the University of Melbourne, was so confident of victory that he sold his house to raise £500,000 to bring the suit - but he has now been bankrupted! The judge ruled that Roberts' activities did not constitute 'trade or commerce', and dismissed the case, awarding costs against the scientist. Judge Sackville had previously queried why the case had been brought at all, and whether Plimer's action was an attack on freedom of expression of views. However, it was judged that Roberts had made some false claims, and was guilty of a breach of copyright in publishing a diagram by a former worker in the field, David Fasold, who had partnered Plimer in the case.<sup>2</sup>

## Not another "monkey trial"

Anyone hoping, or fearing, that this might have been a USA-style battle between science and fundamentalism, to determine by law the truth or falsity of Creationism, had misunderstood the scope of the issues involved. The focus of this case was the particular site in Turkey claimed by Roberts to contain the remains of the Ark. This has become a highly controversial claim even among Creationist scientists (a fact that which media reports seem largely to have overlooked).<sup>3</sup> For example, a devastating critique by Dr Andrew Snelling was published in 1992 by the Creation Science Foundation in Australia, disputing facts and interpretations put forward by Roberts and concluding that the 'boat-shaped' feature is one of several similar natural geological formations in the area. This short extract shows how contentious

the issue had become.

*The site has been vigorously promoted by self-styled archaeologist and explorer Ron Wyatt since 1977, when he first visited Turkey and began investigations. Over the years, particularly in the mid-1980's, Wyatt repeatedly tried to interest other people in the site, such as former US astronaut Colonel James Irwin, and ICR scientist Dr John Morris. Neither of these men were convinced after on-site inspections. In 1985 Wyatt was joined by former merchant marine officer David Fasold and geophysicist Dr John Baumgardner. Both men have since parted company with Wyatt, Fasold disagreeing with him over details, and Baumgardner, while originally being cautiously enthusiastic, is now adamant the site does not contain Noah's Ark.*

*Australian Dr Allen Roberts first visited the site in 1990 and thereafter initiated the organisation Ark Search in order to raise funds to work with Wyatt on an archaeological dig. Their efforts came to world media attention when they were kidnapped (with three others) and held captive by Kurdish guerrillas for three weeks in September 1991.*

*Both Wyatt and Roberts continue to actively promote the site as the probable remains of Noah's Ark.<sup>4</sup>*

Since that article appeared, Fasold, who authored *The Ark of Noah* in 1988, visited the Turkish site again in 1994, where Plimer convinced him that the structure was merely "an unremarkable fold of 110-million-year-old sea bed".<sup>5</sup> It seems the 'gamekeeper has turned poacher', and Fasold now rejects biblical creationism to the extent of preferring to side with an atheist.

### Ron Wyatt - arkeologist extraordinary?

At the trial, Roberts conceded that his assertions that "*We have found...*" petrified gopher wood, rivets, slag, a deer antler, animal hair and anchor stones at the site, were not based on any *personally-conducted* scientific tests. It would seem he placed undue reliance on the astonishing 'finds' alleged to have been made by self-styled biblical archaeologist Ron Wyatt, which include:

- Noah's Ark, Noah's house, Noah's grave and Mrs Noah's grave, with her gold and jewellery;
- the true site of the crossing of the Red Sea, with Pharaoh's drowned army, horses and chariots;
- the true Mount Sinai and the original stone tablets of the Ten Commandments;
- the rock struck by Moses, and the Ark of the Covenant.<sup>6</sup>

Dr Andrew Snelling argues: "*Could Ron Wyatt have found and solved problems that have baffled professional archaeologists for more than a century, or is there another explanation? Ron invariably has an 'explanation' of why he*

*can't direct others to see all this hard evidence for themselves at these 'sites'. His occasional seemingly convincing 'documentation' (including videotape) repeatedly withers under independent scrutiny and/or conflicts with the on-site eyewitness testimony of several of his co-expeditionaries."*<sup>7</sup>

If 'Fundamentalist Protestants', who sincerely profess belief in all the literal details of the Scriptures, cast doubts on such claims, it isn't because they are sceptical of their historical reality. Some others have argued that certain creationist organisations have vested interests in protecting their status, and the integrity of their previous research and publications, by discrediting the work of amateurs or those who do not share the same biblical ideology.<sup>8</sup> On the other hand, this would not be in character with the intellectual honesty that is so often the hallmark of the biblical creationist. Hence, while these claims of remarkable finds are certainly intriguing and appealing, it seems to me to be imprudent to promote them without confirmation by any truly independent expert testimony or hard evidence, lest they later be proved mistakes or hoaxes.

#### **Dr Plimer - consumer watchdog or rabid anti-creationist?**

If the case against Roberts had been brought merely to defend the principle that responsible traders should not puff their wares by deceitful means, we might reasonably support the plaintiffs' disinterested motive in protecting the interests of the public, especially if we share their scepticism about the actual claims made about the Ark. However, there is no doubt that Plimer's motives derived from his atheistic ideology - in 1995 he was named 'Australian Humanist of the Year'. Prior to the trial, it was reported that: "*Prof. Plimer plans to challenge the foundations of all Creation scientists, in particular the belief the Earth was created 6,000 to 10,000 years ago and a flood 4,000 years ago killed all life except that aboard the Ark... Behind Prof. Plimer's decade-long battle is his concern that Creationists are using Australian schools as recruiting grounds and campaigning for their beliefs - which he called 'pseudo-scientific nonsense' and 'invalidated junk science' - to be labelled as science".<sup>9</sup>*" We are already warned that the keynote of this diatribe is to be **distortion**, as no creationist believes that the Flood killed **all** life except that in the Ark. Lest this seem an unfair quibble, read what else he claims creationists believe:

*"For what the Creationists say to be true, you would have to discard all geology, astronomy, physics and biology," he said. "Do we really believe as a matter of literal fact that our flat Earth, formed from water, stands on pillars and that the sun rotates around the Earth?"*

*Dr Plimer calculated that Noah would need to have loaded 460 organisms per second onto the Ark, to meet the 24-hour deadline described in the Bible.*

*He also asked how Noah fed at least 30 million pairs of organisms on the Ark and how he coped daily with thousands of tons of urine and excreta. (...)*

*Prof. Plimer has been battling personally with Mr Roberts since 1992, when the Creationists issued a defamation writ after remarks made by Prof. Plimer on a Melbourne radio station.*

*Eight other writs have been served, and subsequently withdrawn, on Prof. Plimer by American and Australian Creationist groups.*

*Prof. Plimer said: "I got sick of being sued. Instead, I decided to go on the attack.*

*"I fight fire with fire. You shouldn't treat a crazy, religious cult with kid gloves."* <sup>10</sup>

One wonders how a professional scientist with any self-respect could seriously plan "*to challenge the foundations of all Creation scientists*" in front of other scientists and religious experts, and present such a laughable parody of creationist beliefs, which could not possibly be substantiated from any honest documentation on the subject. Lest one imagine that Dr Plimer had no time to 'do his homework', it should be appreciated that he is no novice in the subject. For example, he took part in a debate in Sydney in **March 1988**, a report on which begins thus:

#### ***EVOLUTIONIST DEBATER DESCENDS TO ALL-TIME LOW.***

*Having read some of the scurrilous literature distributed by Australian evolutionists, particularly those associated with the Australian Skeptics Society, against Australian creation scientists, Dr. Duane Gish suspected that low-level tactics would be employed against him in the debate held in the Clancy Theatre of the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, on Friday evening, March 18, before an audience of 800. His opponent was Dr. Ian Plimer, associate professor of geology at Newcastle University, and one of the more vocal members of the anti-creationist movement in Australia. All of this, however, did not prepare Dr. Gish for the outrageous performance of Plimer, by far the worst behaviour ever encountered by Dr. Gish in his more than 200 debates (...).*

*[in response] Plimer began by accusing creationists of distortions, quoting out of context, misquoting and lying. He claimed that Michael Denton had disavowed much of what he had said in his book [Evolution: a Theory in Crisis]. He then spent much of his time creating a caricature of the Biblical flood of Noah, claiming (contrary to the Bible) that Noah had to wander all over the world gathering up animals and that four million species of animals (actually, at the most, 40 thousand) had to be accommodated...*

*Plimer closed his "arguments" by re-emphasising the "lies" told by creation scientists. So many people in the audience were so thoroughly disgusted with*

*his polemics that they were hooting and shouting at him.*

*Gish began his rebuttal by expressing his shock at Plimer's performance, contrasting his own calm scientific case for creation to Plimer's blatant slander. He pointed out that Plimer had failed to present one iota of evidence for evolution. The audience responded with vigorous applause. Dr. Gish related the fact that he had just had lunch with Michael Denton the day before and that Dr. Denton had not disavowed the case against evolution that he had presented in his book... He described the ridiculous nature of Plimer's caricature of the Biblical record, stating that apparently Plimer has never read the Bible.*

It would seem that Prof. Plimer's strategy has not evolved since then, as he continues to misquote the scriptures and ridicule bogus creationist claims of his own making. He accuses creationists of distortions and lying. However, in court, the former Humanist of the Year took the oath - surprisingly, on the Bible! <sup>12</sup>

We should not be surprised that, as St. Peter reminds us, "in the last days there shall come deceitful scoffers", who are wilfully ignorant of the Creation and the Flood [2 Pet. 3: 3-6]. Yet there have been several claims of eyewitnesses to have seen the Ark on Mount Ararat, and a local tradition that it would be revealed before the end of the world. There is much evidence for Creation and the Flood, so we do not need the Ark to be found - but what a witness it would be if it were!

### **Humanists - influential opponents of creationism**

The most visible promoters of evolution in recent years are virtually all avowed atheists. Examples include Ernst Mayr (zoologist), J.B.S.Haldane (geneticist and Stalinist), Carl Sagan (promoter of the Search for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence), Stephen Gould (Marxist and popular writer on evolution). Many are notable humanists, such as Isaac Asimov (science and science fiction writer), Sir Julian Huxley (first Director-General of UNESCO), and Jacques Monod (Nobel winning biologist). <sup>13</sup>

In Britain, many prominent scientists and personalities are Associates of the Rationalist Press Association, which shares premises in London with the National Secular Society and promotes the journals *The Freethinker* and *The Skeptic*. The philosophy of the National Secular Society, founded in 1866, is openly hostile to Christianity:

*"Secularism affirms that this life is the only one of which we have any knowledge and human effort should be directed wholly towards improvement. It asserts that supernaturalism is based upon ignorance and assails it as the historic enemy of progress."* <sup>14</sup>

These are some of the more widely known atheists and evolutionists : Dr Peter Atkins; Professor Colin Blakemore; Professor Sir Herman Bondi; Professor Naomi Chomsky; Professor Francis Crick; Dr Richard Dawkins; Lord Foot; Professor Sir Fred Hoyle; Lord Jenkins of Putney; Sir Ludovic Kennedy; Professor Paul Kurtz; Richard Leakey; Sir John Maddox; Professor John Maynard Smith; George Melly; Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien; Claire Rayner; Dr David Starkey; Professor G.A. Wells; Arnold Wesker; Professor Lewis Wolpert; Professor J.Z. Young.<sup>15</sup>

Readers will recognise the frequency with which many of the above have been able to influence public opinion through their books, the media, education and politics. They pursue an ideology which is fundamentally naturalistic and atheistic, refusing to acknowledge a higher power and authority than human reason, and so fail to understand the supernatural nature and destiny of mankind. Humanists therefore oppose in principle the rights of the Catholic Church to influence society on the basis of revealed religious dogmas, and promote subjective standards of morality and attitudes of relativism. The Rationalist Press Association makes its intentions very clear:

*The aims of the RPA are to argue for a rational approach to human problems, to suggest reasoned alternatives to religious dogmas, to advance a secular system of education, to defend freedom of thought and civil liberties, and to encourage activities in support of these aims. The RPA adheres to the principles of rationalism, defined as the mental attitude which accepts the primacy of reason and aims at establishing a system of philosophy and ethics verifiable by experience and independent of all arbitrary assumptions or authority.*<sup>16</sup>

One has only to consider the secular humanist's positions on abortion, euthanasia and religious education to recognise their active implacable opposition to Christianity, which is based on their disbelief in God, the soul and the after-life. Their philosophy, clearly stated in the 'Humanist Manifestos', is founded on Evolution. Creationism undermines their quasi-religious convictions, so we must expect that the more humanists feel threatened by Creationism, the more vigorously they will counter-attack - and for their ethical code, it might well be that - 'the end justifies the means'.

### **Missing the boat**

Theistic evolutionist Christians apparently believe that atheistic scientists can describe the origins of the world and mankind more truthfully than the Author of the Bible. They may think that humanists are sincere, caring people with whom Christians can work in harmony for the betterment of the world, and that the question of Origins is an irrelevancy. Perhaps the case

of "Roberts vs Plimer" might lead them to take more seriously the religious attacks of the anti-creationists, and their supposedly scientific claims for evolutionism, which subserve their antagonism to God, the Bible and Christian values. As American atheist Frank Zindler said: "*The most devastating thing though that biology did to Christianity was the discovery of biological evolution. Now that we know that Adam and Eve never were real people the central myth of Christianity is destroyed. If there never was an Adam and Eve there never was an original sin. If there never was an original sin there is no need of salvation. If there is no need of salvation there is no need of a saviour. And I submit that puts Jesus, historical or otherwise, into the ranks of the unemployed. I think that evolution is absolutely the death knell of Christianity.*"<sup>17</sup>

Those clerics who promote the view that evolution and creation are perfectly complementary models of origins seem totally ineffective at convincing atheists of this, yet on the other hand many atheistic scientists have been converted to Christian beliefs through the effective witnessing of creationists! While we may regret that the boat on Ararat has yet to be revealed to witness the truth of the Genesis Flood, it is much more regrettable that so many influential Christians are ignorant of the great opportunity of evangelising through Creation Science, or are even trying to suppress the truth of the Bible for the sake of the essentially atheistic doctrine of evolution. How sad that for them, no doubt, the discovery of the Ark would be an embarrassment rather than a joyful consolation in these faithless times.

oooOooo

## REFERENCES

1. Report by Peter Pockley, *Who will be sunk in the great Noah's Ark case?*, **The Daily Telegraph**, 23rd April 1997.
2. Reported in **Creation** (Creation Science Movement), Vol. 10, No. 4 September 1997, p. 4.
3. As in : "*Fasold has previously attacked us for seeking to discredit his work, but he has now retracted his claims.*"  
Reported in article *Noah's Ark comes to rest?*, **Origins** (Biblical Creation Society), No. 23, August 1997, p. 13.

See also John D. Morris, Ph.D. *That boat-shaped rock ... is it Noah's Ark?*, **Creation ex nihilo**, Vol. 12, No. 4, September-November 1990, p.16-19.

4. Andrew A. Snelling, B.Sc.(Hons), Ph.D. (Geology), *Amazing 'Ark'* Exposé, **Creation ex nihilo** (Creation Science Foundation), Vol. 14, No. 4, September - November 1992, p. 28.
5. Pockley, ibid.
6. Snelling, op.cit. p. 37.
7. ibid.
8. op. cit. p. 35.
9. Robert Uhlig, *Creation is put on trial as geologist contests discovery of Noah's Ark*, **The Daily Telegraph**, November 28, 1996.
10. ibid.
11. **Acts and Facts** (Institute for Creation Research), Vol. 17, No. 6, June 1988, p. 3.
12. Pockley, ibid.
13. Don Batten, *A Who's Who of evolutionists* , **Creation ex nihilo**, Vol. 20, No. 1, December 1997 - February 1998, p. 32.
14. **New Humanist** (Rationalist Press Association), Vol. 112, No. 1, March 1997.
15. ibid.
16. ibid.
17. Batten, op. cit., quoting from a debate between Zindler and William Craig, *Atheism vs Christianity* video, Zondervan, 1996.

oooOooo

## ***Evolution - Fact or Belief? video wins International Prize***

At the 12th International Catholic Film Festival held annually near Warsaw, Poland, in May 1997, from about 50 films shown, the second edition of the video *Evolution- Fact or Belief?* (jointly) won 1st prize in the category of "television and catechetical films" !

This recommendation of the film as of value for catechetical purposes may carry some weight when promoting the video in ecclesiastical circles, while noting that it deals with scientific rather than religious arguments. This would be a good opening for trying to interest the Catholic media in the UK in the video, drawing attention to its Catholicity and the award in a short article. Please let me know if you could help by publicising it in this way.

It should be appreciated that the version shown was a slightly modified and updated one - the one we distribute must therefore be referred to as an abridged version of the prize-winning tape. The new version at present is only available (@ £22 inc. postage in Europe) from

Peter Wilders - [REDACTED] Monaco.

## THE UNIQUENESS OF MAN

Not only are there dozens of distinct physical differences between the skeletons and muscles of all living apes and man, but also many others.

**THE FACE.** Highly variable facial features provide unique individuality, apart from identical twins, with far less variability of racial characteristics and size, evidence of the unity of the human species. Complex subcutaneous facial muscles at chin and forehead, and around eyes, nose and mouth, make possible a huge range of expressions. Facial communication and interaction are pre-programmed in infancy.

Only humans express joy and pleasure by smiling. The eyes respond to emotional states, being the 'windows of the soul'. The large nose, turned-out lips and earlobes provide secondary erogenous zones in love-making.

**SPEECH.** Humans, unlike other mammals, utter sounds without raising the head, permitting level face-to-face conversation. The projecting chin allows more freedom for the tongue, enabling much more varied sound production. The pharynx, position of the tongue, shape of the mouth and the larynx are uniquely suited for speaking and singing. Unlike animals, we cannot drink and breathe at the same time. This feature develops at about two years old.

**SKIN.** Humans are one of only a few of the 4200 species of mammals, and the only one of 200 primates, not covered by fur or hair. This might seem a disadvantage in giving less protection and warmth, and increasing exposure to damaging ultraviolet radiation. However, it allows far greater sensitivity of the skin, and more tactile responses, needed in intimate interpersonal relationships, including neural development of the child. Skin also expresses emotions, such as reddening with anger or sweating with fear. Humans are also the only creatures who blush - or need to!

Human skin is a supreme thermoregulator, by varying blood flow in the surface of the skin, and by the action of some 2 million sweat glands releasing sweat in hot conditions. There are even two types, one responding to heat, the other to emotions!

Unlike other primates, humans have a layer of fat beneath the skin to insulate them from the cold. Exposure to sun usually results in tanning, which helps to provide a protective filter.

**REPRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.** Humans are designed for intense personal face-to-face pair-bonding, without limitations of seasonal

breeding periods. Several unique erogenous features maximise pleasurable physical experiences. Only humans have the anatomical attributes associated with the religious practice of circumcision and the definition of female virginity. Only human females suffer pain in normal childbirth. It may be noted that the human embryo develops into the foetus without passing through an ape-like stage, so denying the theory of embryonic recapitulation.

Humans have the longest maturation span of any creature, being absolutely dependent on others for survival for many years. Most animals reach 60% of their adult size in a year - we take 14 years. The skull does not fully ossify until age nineteen, so that the brain can continue to grow. Yet the three ossicles of the middle ear do not grow at all, because they are full-sized at birth! The hand and the pelvis are very slow to develop, and maturity comes later than in even the large primates. Language and cultural development are also much slower in humans.

Yet the human life span today is typically over twice that of the large apes, contrary to predictions based on body size and metabolic rate, but consistent with having a larger brain.

**BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR.** The human brain is only  $\frac{1}{4}$  the mass of a whale's brain, and marmoset monkeys may have a 1:1 ratio of brain mass to body mass. Brain/body ratio in elephants is 1/1000, chimpanzees 1/150, gorilla 1/500 and man 1/50. But it is neither just the absolute mass nor the relative mass that determines intelligence. Human brains are not just bigger than ape brains - they have unique complex structures such as :

Frontal cortex, forming about one-half of the cerebral cortex, and concerned with complex behaviour, self-awareness, memory usage, control, planning etc.

Association areas, which serve to integrate sensory inputs from seeing, hearing and touch. Damage to these areas in humans has much more effect on self-awareness, reasoning, language and behaviour than in apes.

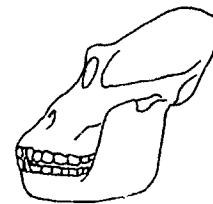
Hemisphere specialisation, with certain functions more involved with only one side of the brain, such as Broca's speech centre on the left side. The tendency to right-handedness (80-90%) is uniquely human. Association between hemispheres in humans comes through the large corpus callosum.

Specifically human behaviour includes spiritual, mental and cultural aspects, such as free will, imagination, abstract reasoning, moral sense, detailed memory, number, writing, language, humour, laughter, religious sense and worship, burying the dead, conscience, guilt, weeping, poetry, art, use of tools, fire, dress, weapons, etc.

A.N.

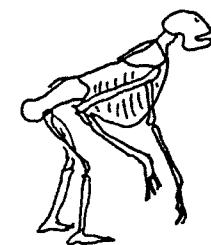
## APE e.g. gorilla, chimpanzee

**SKULL.** Sloping forehead and face • Heavy brow ridge • Flat nose • Long canine teeth, with a gap • Receding chin, with inner 'simian shelf' • Large heavy jaw • U-shaped dental arcades • Occipital and temporal crests for attachment of large neck and jaw muscles • Foramen magnum angled to meet first vertebra, as skull not balanced above.



**BRAIN.** Volume of skull in adult male ape varies between 90 cc and 685 cc. • Gorilla 510 cc • Chimpanzee : 410 cc.

**SPINE.** Long spines and transverse processes on cervical vertebrae for attaching large neck muscles • Cantilever spine suited for quadripeds • No forward curvature in neck and lumbar regions.



**PELVIS AND GAIT.** Long, narrow, slanting pelvis • Muscles developed for quadripedal gait.

**LEGS AND FEET.** Knees and ankles do not allow legs to straighten completely or body to balance upright • Foot not arched, so walk on side of foot • Ankle joint oblique, with foot turned outwards • Longer digits, with opposable 'big toe'.



**ARMS AND HANDS.** Arms relatively much longer, used to assist in 'knuckle walking' and climbing • Very large muscles all along arms • Less mobility of the hands • Shorter fingers and non-opposable thumb • Less developed sensory supply to hand.



# HUMAN

**SKULL.** Nearly vertical forehead and face • Brow ridges absent • Large protruding nose • Protruding chin • Smaller, lighter jaw • Parabolic dental arcades • Occipital and temporal crests absent • Foramen magnum beneath skull, as head upright on neck.

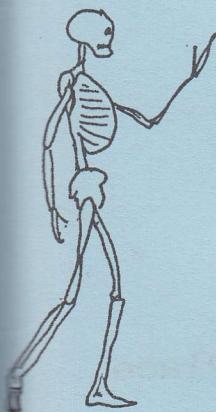
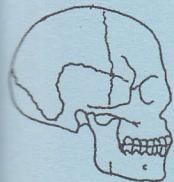
**BRAIN.** From 750 - 2350 cc; average male about 1500 cc. Well developed frontal and occipital lobes.

**SPINE.** Bodies of vertebrae taper in size upwards to support weight, with well developed intervertebral disks • Double curvature in neck and sacrum, forming S-shaped spine, essential for upright stance and balance.

**PELVIS AND GAIT.** Shorter but broader hip-bone, for attachment of abdominal and buttock muscles, which are well developed for upright posture, balance on one leg, and locomotion.

**LEGS AND FEET.** Large calf and anterior thigh muscles • Femur allows knees to be held together when standing • Knee and ankle joints allow upright standing, sitting and kneeling • Ankle joint at right angle to tibia • Arched sole • Short digits, with big toe the largest and longest, but not opposable.

**ARMS AND HANDS.** Much shorter arms • Far less powerful muscles • More mobile shoulder, forearm and wrist joints • Longer fingers and fully-opposable thumb • Very well developed senses in hand.





*Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*

presents

## **The Relevance of the 'Origins Debate' to the Crisis in the Catholic Church**

by  
**Gerry Keane**

*Internationally known Australian author of  
'Creation Rediscovered'*

at  
**St. James's Church , Spanish Place  
Social Centre,  
22 George Street, London W1**

at 7. 30 pm

on Wednesday 28th January 1998.

*Doors open at 7 pm  
Tea and light refreshments*

